Serial No. 10/058,289

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims replaces all previous versions, and listings of claims in the present application.

1. (Currently amended) A head protecting air bag device comprising:

a bag body forming at least one expansion room and a gas passage extending in the longitudinal direction of a vehicle body communicating ~~to~~ with the expansion room;

an inflator which ejects expansion gas in the bag body through a gas ejection port;

a flexible inner tube provided in the gas passage and for supplying the expansion gas into the expansion room through at least one gas outlet hole; and

a pipe coupled to a the gas ejection port of the inflator and extending in an axial direction of the inner tube, the pipe including a leading end ~~of the pipe~~ protruding into the inner tube,

wherein an inner diameter of the pipe is less than an outer diameter of the gas ejection port of the inflator, and a length of the pipe is less than a distance between a rear end of the pipe and the at least one gas outlet hole for supplying the expansion gas to the expansion room.

2 - 4. (Withdrawn)

5. (Cancelled)

6 - 9. (Withdrawn)

10. (New) An air bag device comprising:

a bag body having at least one expansion chamber and a gas passage extending in a longitudinal direction of a vehicle body and communicating with the at least one expansion chamber;

an inflator ejecting an expansion gas in the bag body through a gas ejection port;

a flexible inner tube provided in the gas passage and supplying the expansion gas into the expansion chamber through at least one gas outlet hole; and

a pipe coupled to the gas ejection port and extending in an axial direction of the flexible inner tube, the pipe including a leading end protruding into the inner tube,

wherein an inner diameter of the pipe is less than an outer diameter of the gas ejection port, and a length of the pipe is less than a distance between a rear end of the pipe and the at least one gas outlet hole, and wherein the inner diameter of the pipe becomes less at a predetermined point along the length thereof and remains less along the length thereof from the predetermined point to the leading end.

11. (New) The air bag device according to Claim 10, wherein the leading end of the pipe includes a deflecting portion to deflect the expansion gas from a first ejecting direction to a second direction on an opposite side of a sewed portion provided on the inner tube.

12. (New) The air bag device according to Claim 11, wherein the leading end of the pipe is slanted to form the deflecting portion.

13. (New) The air bag device according to Claim 10, wherein a first axis of the inflator at the mounting position f the pipe and a second axis of the leading end of the pipe are offset

from each other to form a bending portion at a part of the pipe near the gas ejection port of the inflator.

14. (New) An airbag device according to claim 10, wherein the inner diameter of the pipe at the predetermined point is set to determine a pressure associated with the expansion gas in a vicinity of the gas ejection port.

15. (New) An airbag device according to claim 10, wherein the inner diameter of the pipe is changed at the predetermined point to modulate a pressure associated with the expansion gas in a vicinity of the gas ejection port.

16. (New) An airbag device according to claim 10, wherein the pipe is rigid relative to the inner tube.

17. (New) An airbag device according to claim 10, wherein the pipe is thinner at the leading end than at the rear end thereof.